

Robert Scheer at FFF Conference 2007, Part 2 of 6

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Robert Scheer on "Ike Was Right and We Are Becoming What We Despise" at the Future of Freedom Foundation's <http://fff.org> Restoring the Republic, 2007.

Robert Scheer covered presidential politics for The Los Angeles Times for thirty years. He is the author of six books, including: With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush, and Nuclear War; America after Nixon: The Age of the Multinationals; and coauthor of The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us about Iraq.

Playlist of Scheer's lecture: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=24B11D216AD6C419

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he said um now this convert this conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience the total influence economic political even spiritual is felt in every city every state house every office of the federal government we recognize the imperative need for this development he was talking after all the height of the Cold War yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications are torial resources and livelihood are all involved so is the very structure of our society and the council's of government we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence whether sought or unsought by the military-industrial complex the potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist we must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties are democratic processes we should take nothing for granted General Eisenhower we should take nothing for granted only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of Defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper it together with this administration data they were not the first because they took advantage of our fears our panic a real issue what happened on 911 and they ran with it in the process of destroying knocking out all of the restraints or little limitations that make a democratic society possible and it was lying on a grand scale and they got away with it why because of the national security fear the media collapsed journalists famous journals allowed their brains to

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famous journals allowed their brains to be embedded let alone their bodies the party that was not in power cave totally went along with these lives we know now that even though the members of the Senate national security committee of others on service committee what have you knew did not come clean did not tell us we've had a succession of books of insiders in the administration they never say said they've never for a moment did they believe it chapter 17 of tennis book where he says that he never believed there was a threat that they had with developing a WMD a nuclear bomb that was just a convenient one argument that they could agree on that they never believed there was a tie between al-qaeda and Afghanistan and Iraq the cynicism that just runs right through not knew it was there in the Gulf of Tonkin when Lyndon Johnson was a formed by cotton Heric of the Maddox that no I don't think we've been attacked the evidence that we seem to be the radar picking up our zigzagging in the Gulf of Tonkin and mcnamara and LBJ knew that in real time and get rushed to the DV cameras to announce they were extending award in North Vietnam and getting us more deeply involved the cynicism is not new it's just that with the terrorist attack of 911 and the particular crowd in the White House now led by my god matching what Eisenhower was thinking when he confounds

the image confronts the image of Dick Cheney could there ever be a better example of the military-industrial complex the revolving door here is a company with brown roux tubes of the division of Hal Burton that was bankrupt it had been ripped us off in other words was the main one in in Vietnam and now top of their game and this company benefits from this and man has no shame no idea of a conflict of interest the very person you wanted one example and

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person you wanted one example and Eisenhower would have been talking about it would've been Dick Cheney and what did they do they took to fear frightened american people then they developed a notion of war terrorism has always been with us it will always be with us always you know one man's terrorism is another's national national Patriot you know terrorists are people who don't have control of state powers so they don't have airplanes are they own they hijack other people's airport yeah terrorists do terrible damage they hurt civilians they're not the only one you know those 3.4 million people that got killed in Indochina and we're mostly civilians when we decided to drop the bombs on Hiroshima Nagasaki those people didn't vote for the Emperor there were mostly civilians we were trying to make a political point when we targeted them or we burn Dresden or wooden cities of Japan so terrorism what we really mean by towers of non-state actors or president called rogue so for there's always Miller goes and it should be treated as a pathology it's an example of rage of impotence II fear of madness whatever you want okay religious fanaticism that's not always religious could be nationalist fanaticism so terrorism is a pathology instead of treating it as a pathology and being and analyzing it being surgical about it what did this administration do it turn it into a war now think about it if you went to adopt earned you had a bump in your head miss doctor we're not even looking at it said let's cut off the leg you would know there's something bizarre about this but somehow the media experts in our government people on the council Foreign Relations what have you did not notice this here if there was one place in the Mideast where bin Laden could not operate it was Iraq not the part that we

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operate it was Iraq not the part that we control with the fly zone but the park I saw him loose and control he was their sworn enemy this is clearly outlined in a 911 Commission everywhere else you want he was a secular dictator they religious fanatics they thought he sold out and worst enemy but no connection whatsoever evidence was fabricated to muhammad akhtar the secret meeting a prob Bob I alternate belies I interviewed a Colin Powell quite recently in a brief exchange and I said you know how did you go along with this when in fact your own State Department intelligence told you in real time that this was all lives whether with you did aluminum tubes you know Mohamed Atta media State Department got it right and I said you know when Joe Wilson got it right and said I didn't know each other the record I didn't need Joe Wilson to tell me that we had we had our own information yes State Department elegance had it you know there was no connection between one event and the other except fear you could frighten the American public and go atop a country that has oil and you want to go after if you believe in military intervention there was under Clinton and under birch ample reason to go do a surgical strike if you want to get bin Laden that's what was supposed to have special forces for that's why we have effective sophisticated airplane when Clinton sent in those cruise missiles he was announced for taking attention away from the important matter of Monica Lewinsky you may recall Bush didn't do that no let's not go off your rock that has nothing to do with it so I'm going to keep track at a time Harold although if this really is an Atticus libertarian crowd forget the time restraints and so there's a lot to cover here but the first point that is that when you're dealing with national security as was evidence in this case all reason stops fear enters and otherwise intelligent people act like fools whether their editorial writers or

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fools whether their editorial writers or whether their senators or whether they're working in the National screen doesn't matter they go along with it and that's what these books tell us the people stepping out for Neil or any of the others you know Clark what have you we don't have adults watching the store is careerism

time point out there's a fear in speare being smeared and it doesn't work again as a journalist it doesn't work on the local level on the local level i say weight of it you gave the zoning permit to these guys and you're getting money a bah blah blah they can't say you commie you traitor you know oh he can't pull that argument you know came and put it on the national level if you're having a debate about you know most of normal things we talked about but you get international security and that's where it enters and it doesn't matter as I say whether it's one president or another let me give you an example our problems with with this whole misunderstanding of Afghanistan rocketed didn't start with a Republican in george w and i'm perfectly willing to criticize bush I'm you know cold war for the book what my son called the five biggest lies which told us about Iraq and the only criticism I've heard of that book is why only five and so my defense is there rubrics you know there's hundreds of lies that you could put another but an end begin with George Bush just take jimmy carter who i think has been a marvelous ex-president really i mean brave he builds houses he does things is actually willing to make some criticism of you know the israel lobby will have you talk honestly and so it's not a very good president and the worst thing he did is president was he was having trouble with the Iran hostage situation and he had problems with inflation and it's big new Brzezinski not side there's a reasonable separate video had the idea which he recounted quite gleefully later years later in an

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quite gleefully later years later in an interview with the relevant or wanted to give the Soviets their Vietnam

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